McPhedran, Alexander

March-June 1917

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March 15th, 1917

Dr. A. McPhedran,
151 Floor Street West,
Toronto.

Dear Dr. McPhedran:

I am extremely sorry to have to trouble you with a matter that has been brought to the attention of the Dean and myself, but I do not see any other course than to ask you if you will be kind enough to see the Dean and me some day so that we may talk it over.

We have had a deputation from about a dozen students with a petition, who complain that during the past winter they were not granted fair opportunity of clinical instruction in medicine, and that this was partly the reason why some of them at least were again starred this spring.

I shall be glad to meet you in Dr. Clarke's room at the Hospital at any time which suits your convenience.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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Dr. Alexander McPhedran

HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

151 BLOOR STREET WEST
TORONTO

March 16, 1917.

The President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. President:-

I am this morning in receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. regarding a deputation of students with a petition complaining of want of proper opportunity in clinical instruction in medicine. I will be glad to meet you and the Dean to-morrow, Saturday, morning, or any other morning that may suit you, as I am at the hospital daily in the forenoon.

I may say that the students have made no complaint to me although I have told them that I was prepared to consider any difficulties they had, and to do what I could to remedy them. Of course, I have known for years that the clinical instruction was, in many instances, very unsatisfactory, but I have no opportunity of verifying matters or to do anything to improve them.

Yours sincerely,

A McPhedran

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March 17th, 1917

Mr. A. J. Woodie and other signatories of the
petition regarding work in Clinical Medicine.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Dean Clarke and I have had a long interview with Professor McPhedran. He assures us that clinical instruction sufficient for the purpose of the supplemental examinations was provided for during the past winter: that at least two members of the staff conducted clinics which you had the right to attend, and that those to which you refer in your letter which you say the Professor of Medicine would not allow you to attend were special clinics conducted for a special class of students. The Professor of Medicine is of opinion that with the clinical facilities afforded you in the Hospital each had opportunity to pursue the course of clinical investigation and to study the cases necessary for the examinations.

With regard to the examination, the results of which I do not understand that you challenge, the Professor of Medicine states that the other examiner, Dr. Goldie, concurred with him in the final decision.

If you wish to see the Professor of Medicine in connection with this matter he is quite willing to make an arrangement that will be mutually convenient.

I regret that you have been unsuccessful in your work, but the standards of the University in the medical examinations

must be maintained and I hope that with further effort you will be atle to secure your degree.

Yours sincerely,

President.

Dr. Alexander McPhedran

HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

151 BLOOR STREET WEST

TORONTO

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March 19, 1917.

The President,

University of Toronto,

Toronto.

Dear Mr. President:-

Regarding the students' complaint about clinics, I made inquiry this morning and find that both Dr. Hutchison and Dr. Oille gave them a good deal of clinical instruction, and Dr. Oille assures me that they had a large number of clinics from myself. When they came to the clinics I told them they could not have much attention because our hands were already full; that they would have the opportunity of working in the wards and applying for assistance to get them over difficulties. They were also told, as occasion arose, that the fourth year students would need to have precedence in the cases assigned to the fourth year because they only had an hour and a half, whereas those students doing supplemental work had the whole day. With a few exceptions it was difficult, if not impossible, to get them to persevere with their work if any clinician entered the ward. Throughout their course they have had facilities identical with all

other students, and as for the work during this winter, I do not think they have any good ground on which to rest a complaint. So far as my own ward is concerned, any man who makes a complaint as to the facilities, should be asked to take himself elsewhere. As to the complaint made to you a year or so ago, of which I heard something before, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the leaders in it also belonged to the class that did not like work, and, had it not been for war conditions, would have been referred back for further work before their work would have been sufficiently well done for them to pass their examinations.

I am asking those junior clinicians to meet me to-night and I will write you as soon as possible the result of our conference.

Yours sincerely,

A. McPhedran

Dr. Alexander McPhedran

HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

151 BLOOR STREET WEST

TORONTO

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March 21, 1917.

The President,

University of Toronto,

City.

Dear Mr. President:-

Last evening I had a conference with the instructors suggested to undertake the work of the third year, Drs. Loudon, McPhedran, Oille, Ross and Young. They have expressed their willingness to undertake the work without any change of status, and, if necessary, without additional remuneration. They will devote such time to it as the schedule of medicine assigns to the third year work in clinical medicine. Of course, no time will be required at their hands for research work. Such time as they have to spare will be given to the instruction of the fourth and fifth years as at present.

Of course, you understand that no necessity is laid upon you to dismiss those at present appointed.

Regarding your question as to all-time service, and the number of men required to carry it on, I will look into it and will write you in detail at an early date.

Yours sincerely,

A McPhedran

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March 21st, 1917

Dear Dr. McPhedran:

Dr. Clarke and I have been considering with a great deal of care what should be done for those students about whom we were speaking to you. It is necessary for them to get two months clinical instruction, I understand, before they come up for their next examination. In view of what you say in your letter we both think that if you do not disapprove it would be advisable that they should take their clinical instruction from Dr. Hutchison and Dr. Gillis for these months, and that they should not be charged an extra fee for this instruction.

We also are of opinion that in order to remove any vestige of feeling of injustice on their part the next examination should be conducted by some examiner who has not hitherto examined them.

I hope that these suggestions will meet with your approval.

I am, Yours sincerely,

President.

Dr. A. McPhedran,

151 Bloor Street West, Toronto.

Dr. Alexander McPhedran

HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

151 BLOOR STREET WEST
TORONTO

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March 21, 1917.

The President,

University of Toronto,

City.

Dear Mr. President:-

I am just in receipt of your note regarding those students who interviewed you and the Dean. I note the suggestions which you make after consultation with Dr. Clarke. Would not doing as you suggest imply censure on me?, and also, that they would have such influence in the University's matters as to alter its natural and usual course? I have no doubt whatever that that will be the inference that will be drawn from it. For my own part, I do not think their feeling of injustice calls for any consideration. Not a member of the staff regards them as not having had the best possible advantages. There are always a number of students in each year who it is impossible, either from lack of ability or unwillingness to do their work, to make efficient. It will be so, so long as we admit and retain in the classes men who are of that class. If they could be weeded out in the first year it would redound greatly to both University and public interests.

Yours sincerely,

McPhedran

March 22nd, 1917

Dr. A. McPhedran,

151 Floor Street West, Toronto.

Dear Dr. McPhedran:

I have again discussed with the Dean the question as to what should be done with regard to these students. In view of what you said to me about them and what you wrote to me in your letter of March 19th we were both of the opinion that the only course left open was to have instruction given to them by some one else than yourself, and we assumed from your letter that the persons whom you deemed to be suitable to give it were Drs. Hutchison and Gillis.

These students have a right to instruction. We cannot refuse it. They have a right also to examination which we cannot refuse. I judged also from the whole tenor of our conversation that you would prefer that some one else should examine them, and certainly if after two months instruction they were examined by some one else and did not get through there would be no possible reason for complaint on their part. We should let them know in a few days what we can do for them.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

Requête immédiate
attention —

Monsieur
Le Préfet
de la Seine

Le Président
du Conseil d'Hygiène —

Dr. Alexander McPhedran

HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

151 BLOOR STREET WEST
TORONTO

23 [illegible]

Dear Sir

I am in receipt
of your letter of today.
I see nothing to hinder
those students getting
Clinical instruction
in either or both the other
services — Dr. Roberts
or Dr. Hastie's services.

As to the Examination
I do not see how others
than the Examiners of the
Fifth year can well
conduct them. His
house surgeon does not

Yours

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April 13th, 1917

Dr. A. McPhedran,

151 Bloor Street West,

Toronto.

Dear Dr. McPhedran:

As you are aware Professor J. J. R. Macleod is not able at present to accept the chair of physiology. He very therefore intending not to fill the chair additional, if I recall. There is, however, a very good chance of our securing Dr. Scott, to act for the winter. He is at this time [illegible] ever had, but he is only taking anything with the view to getting himself [illegible]. He is anxious to secure the the opportunity to do some clinical work and that either I think he would be willing to take charge of our physiology. His aim is to take a teaching and research position in a university clinic by and by and he does not wish to lose the year. Dr. Macleod believes that if he could be offered a definite opportunity of doing some work in a medical clinic our chances for getting him would be greatly increased. Do you think that I could assure Dr. Macleod that if Dr. Scott were to take our position for a year in physiology, he would be allowed to do clinical work in Medicine also ? During the past two years he has held a clinic with a section of the third year class at the City Hospital in Cleveland on two afternoons a week.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Alexander McPhedran

HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

151 BLOOR STREET WEST

TORONTO

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April 16, 1917.

The President,

University of Toronto, City.

Dear Mr. President:-

Regarding the proposed appointment of Dr. Scott of Cleveland, in charge of physiology for the next year, there will be no difficulty in giving him clinical work to do, provided he can spare the time in the forenoon. Possibly he may prove an acquisition to us.

I am given to understand that the instructors in physiology are quite apprehensive at the prospect of a new man for a year. It is feared that their research work will be disarranged. They would expect very much better work if Mr. Mottram were fit to assume the duties of the post. He knows the laboratory, is a capable instructor, and he and Dr. Hartman get on well together. Might it not be worth while looking into the prospect of his being fit to undertake the work? These are purely personal suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

A McPhedran

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April 18th, 1917

Dear Dr. McPhedran:

Many thanks for your letter. My own belief is that the Committee of which you are a member, the opinion of which you recollect, would have been glad to have Dr. Mottram at work for next winter, but his health is in such a precarious state that we were of opinion that with both Physiology and Biochemistry depleted we could not venture to put the whole burden of Physiology upon him for the coming winter. Possibly we might find something [illegible] to do in Biochemistry if his health is sufficiently restored by that time.

With kind regards, I am,

[illegible]ly,

[illegible]

President.

151 Bloor Street West,

(Continued.

June 30th, 1917

Dr. A. McPhedran,

151 Floor Street West,

Toronto.

Dear Dr. McPhedran:

Will you kindly send to me the names of those in your department who are to take the supplemental work in the Faculty of Medicine during the summer, and I will have them appointed at the next meeting of the Board ?

Yours sincerely,

President.

Dr. A. McPhedran.

Hours 11 to 2 and by appointment.

151 Bloor Street W.
Toronto.

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July 5, 1917.

The President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. President:-

I have your letter of June 30th, regarding the supplementary work. There are very few men available. I have asked Dr. Loudon to take charge of it, and have associated with him Dr. George McPhedran. If you do not wish to appoint him at present Dr. Harry Hutchison will undertake part of the work. Of course, his is a permanent appointment.

Yours sincerely,

A. McPhedran

July 6th, 1917

Dr. A. McPhedran,

151 Bloor Street West,

Toronto.

Dear Dr. McPhedran:

Many thanks for your letter. I will send forward the nominations of Dr. Loudon and Dr. George McPhedran as you request to do supplementary work for the summer. If it should be reported that a third is needed in the future I will also send in, as you mention, the name of Dr. F. Patchison.

Yours sincerely,

President.